

MEDIA RELEASE

CATHY GRAHAM HONOURED BY ABO AT ANNUAL AWARDS

The annual **ABO Classical Music Awards**, have once again honoured excellence in the fields of orchestral, concert hall and artist management. They were presented at the ABO conference dinner held at Titanic Belfast, hosted by Jane Jones from Classic FM, on 23 January.

The prestigious **ABO Award** went to **Cathy Graham, Director of Music at the British Council** in London, for her work across all genres of music on projects which create trust and understanding between the UK and the rest of the world. Well-known to ABO members for her constant and active support of the sector, Cathy has served on many boards and is currently Chair of Streetwise Opera, the award-winning charity that uses music to help homeless people move forward with their lives. Her deep love of music, and her attendance at so many concerts and performances, are evidence of the depth of her support and enthusiasm for the work that UK orchestras do.

The winner of the **Artist Manager of the Year** category was **Angela Sullivan**, of Sullivan Sweetland Ltd. Alongside managing the careers of artists including Avi Avital and Augustin Hadelich, her work with sitar player and composer Anoushka Shankar on the Land of Gold project – which highlighted the plight of displaced people – encourages audiences around the world to donate to the charity Help Refugees.

Concert Hall Manager of the Year went to **Suzanne Rolt**, Chief Executive of St George's Bristol. Since heading up the St George's team in 2006, Suzanne Rolt has put her own inimitable stamp on the venue's reputation, and overseen the major 'Building A Sound Future' project which, with an investment over six million pounds, has dramatically enhanced the experience for visitors to the venue.

Orchestra Manager of the Year went to **David Wilson**, General Manager of the London Mozart Players, a completely re-invented orchestra, player-directed and player-run, the only one of its type in the UK. The heart and soul of the orchestra for thirty years, he has overseen everything from imaginative concert-planning and associations with leading performers, to touring and continuing outreach activities, and a gala 70th birthday concert at the orchestra's newly refurbished home venue, Croydon's Fairfield Halls.

ABO/CLASSICAL MUSIC AWARDS

Artist Manager of the Year

Angela Sullivan, Sullivan Sweetland Ltd

Concert Hall Manager of the Year

Suzanne Rolt, Chief Executive, St George's Brandon Hill, Bristol

Orchestra Manager of the Year

David Wilson, General Manager, London Mozart Players

ABO AWARD

Cathy Graham, Director of Music, British Council

ABOUT THE ABO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The ABO Conference is the UK's leading conference for the classical music industry, with delegates including chief executives, senior management staff and musicians from across the ABO membership, as well as the wider classical music industry including concert halls, festivals, broadcasters, and funding agencies. The 2019 Conference is hosted by the Ulster Orchestra and held in the ICC Belfast, with a concert in the Waterfront Hall.

Speakers include **Mrs Fionnuala Jay-O'Boyle CBE DL**, Lord Lieutenant of Belfast, **Sean Rainbird**, Director, National Gallery of Ireland, **Steve Brosvik** of Nashville Symphony, **John Kieser** of New World Symphony, UK Disability Champion for Arts & Culture **Andrew Miller**, conductor **James Rose**, and conservative thinker and polemicist **Sir Roger Scruton**.

The ABO is delighted to celebrate seventeen years with Principal Media Partner **Classic FM**, and to announce a new relationship with **Help Musicians UK** as Charity Partner, as well as welcoming **International Arts Manager** as Media Associate. **Classical Music** magazine, newly acquired by the Mark Allen Group, continues its association of eight years as Print Media Sponsor for the conference and the ABO/Classical Music Awards which will be hosted by **Jane Jones** from Classic FM. The ABO is grateful for the support of **Arts Council of Northern Ireland**, and its hosts the **Ulster Orchestra**.

About the Association of British Orchestras

The ABO is the national body representing the collective interests of professional orchestras, youth ensembles and the wider classical music industry throughout the UK. The ABO's mission is to enable and support an innovative, collaborative and sustainable orchestral sector by providing advice, support, intelligence and information to the people who make British orchestras a global success. Recent initiatives include *Resonate* in association with PRS for Music and BBC Radio 3, which supports the best orchestral music of the last 25 years, and *Find Your Way* which identifies and offers training to future sector leaders. The ABO campaigned successfully for Orchestra Tax Relief and continues to lobby for the sector at the highest levels.

www.abo.org.uk

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